
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

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TUNGSTEN IN SEPTEMBER 1996

Based upon net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder produced from hydrogen reduced metal powder, the U.S. industrial tungsten activity for September 1996 increased about 2 % compared with that of August 1996, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. U.S. industrial tungsten activity for the first 9 months of 1996 was identical to that of the same period of 1995. Reported consumption of tungsten in all end-use products through September 1996 increased by approximately 1 % compared with reported consumption of tungsten through the same period of 1995.

August 1996 trade data are included in this issue. Trade data for September 1996 will appear in a subsequent issue.

The combined wolframite and scheelite prices from Metal Bulletin were:

Low \$40/mtu WO_3 (\$36.29/stu WO_3), October 1-31, 1996

High \$55/mtu WO_3 (\$49.90/stu WO_3), October 1-31, 1996

Update

The Chinese Government will purchase 3,000 metric tons of fine tungsten concentrate from major state-owned mines for their stockpile. This amount of tungsten ore is equivalent to 2 months output by state-owned mines. The first 2,000 metric tons of tungsten ore is being purchased, and the remaining 1,000 metric tons will be bought in 1997.¹

¹Platt's Metals Week, Nov. 11, 1996, p. 8.

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate			Reported scrap consumption	Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period 2/		Net produc- tion 3/	Reported consumption 4/	Stocks, end of period 5/
1995: p/ January-December	6,320	4,180	631	2,350	8,190	11,900	1,290
1996:							
January	479	310	486	261	718	993	1,220
February	475	162	438	186	933	1,000	1,360
March	504	155	559	223	845	957	1,440
April	580	148	694	236	787	973	1,510
May	415	403	654	200	303	1,070	1,550
June	551	365	721	199	473	947	1,560
July	506	383	633	273	866	935	1,780
August	415	183	695	250	525	1,110	1,640
September	422	NA	601	134	538	836	1,550
Total	4,350	2,110	XX	1,960	5,980	8,820	XX

p/ Preliminary. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Reported by consumers.

3/ Net production of tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, chemicals, and other products.

4/ Includes data on tungsten carbide powder from secondary sources.

5/ Reported by producers.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND STOCKS OF
AMMONIUM PARATUNGSTATE, BY MONTH 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Production	Consumption	Stocks, end of period 2/
1995: p/ January-December	2,580 3/	7,690	338
1996:			
January	565	598	370
February	W	630	366
March	556	782	357
April	W	742	319
May	W	619	299
June	W	531	391
July	677	639	W
August	592	673	576
September	551	572	558
Total	2,390	5,210	XX

p/ Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Producers and consumers.

3/ Excludes seven months of withheld data.

TABLE 3
U.S. PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product	Net production 2/			Stocks at end of period	
	1996			1996	
	1995 p/	September	Year to date	1995 p/	September
Metal powder	2,910	227	3,070	818	953
Tungsten carbide powder (made from metal powder)	5,280	311	2,910	348	452
Cast and crystalline carbide powder; other	W	--	--	W	W
Chemicals	W	W	W	126	141
Total	8,190	538	5,980	1,290	1,550

p/ Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Gross production less quantity used to make other products in table.

TABLE 4
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USE, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS IN SEPTEMBER 1996 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

End use	Ferro-tungsten	Tungsten metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Scheelite (natural, synthetic)	Tungsten scrap 2/	Other tungsten materials 3/	Total	Total year to date
Steel:								
Stainless and heat-resisting	W	--	W	--	W	--	W	W
Alloy	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	15
Tool	18	--	--	--	--	--	18	139
Total	20	--	W	--	W	--	20	154
Superalloys	--	W	2	--	14	1	17	164
Alloys (excludes steels and superalloys):								
Cutting and wear-resistant materials	--	W	478	--	W	1	479	5,020
Other alloys 4/	--	W	W	--	W	--	W	1
Mill products made from metal powder	--	W	--	--	--	--	W	360
Chemical and ceramic uses	--	W	W	--	--	W	W	W
Miscellaneous and unspecified	4	39	277	--	W	W	320	3,120
Total	24	39	757 5/	--	14	1	836	XX
Total consumption, year to date	247	540	7,700 5/	--	134	200	--	8,820
Stocks, September 30, 1996	34	43	397 5/	1	25	14	514	XX

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Does not include that used in making primary tungsten products.

3/ Includes tungsten chemicals.

4/ Includes welding and hard-facing rods and materials and nonferrous alloys.

5/ Based on reported consumption plus information from secondary sources; includes estimates.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Con- cen- trate	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro- tungsten	Lumps, grains, powders	Tungsten carbide	Other e/ 2/	Total	Total year to date
1995:								
Total	4,180	1,290	652	312	476	3,260	10,200	XX
1996:								
June	365	63	15	16	18	249	726	XX
July	383	130	43	12	22	381	972	XX
August:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	14
Belgium	--	--	--	(3/)	--	--	(3/)	3
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	312
Canada	--	--	--	1	2	(3/)	3	35
China	--	231	29	--	12	113	385	2,920
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Germany	--	1	--	4	10	(3/)	15	150
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	3	(3/)	3	194
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	7
Japan	--	--	--	1	1	2	4	57
Kazakstan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	126
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	46
Netherlands	34	--	--	--	--	--	34	88
Peru	69	--	--	--	--	--	69	318
Portugal	73	--	--	--	--	--	73	404
Russia	8	--	--	40	--	--	48	906
Sweden	--	--	(3/)	1	--	(3/)	1	41
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	2
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	20	--	1	21	396
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Total	183	232	29	68	29	120	661	XX
Total, year to date	2,110	1,080	381	303	214	1,990	XX	6,080

e/ Tungsten content estimated in part. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium, potassium, and sodium tungstates, mixtures and materials in chief value tungsten, tungsten oxide, tungstic acid, unwrought ingots and shot, other unwrought tungsten and materials, wrought tungsten, and other tungsten compounds.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in August 1996 totaled 199 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of destination	Con- cen- trate	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder e/	Tungsten carbide	Other e/ 2/	Total	Total year to date
1995:							
Total	5	238	484	1,670	369	2,760	XX
1996:							
June	3	17	25	173	34	252	XX
July	1	--	24	78	19	120	XX
August:							
Argentina	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	3
Australia	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	1	12
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	21
Bahamas	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Belgium	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	8
Brazil	--	--	(3/)	1	1	2	7
Canada	--	--	2	20	2	24	292
China	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	(3/)	23
Denmark	--	--	--	2	--	2	3
France	--	--	--	7	(3/)	7	56
Germany	--	--	5	11	2	18	317
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Honduras	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Hong Kong	--	--	(3/)	1	(3/)	1	7
India	--	--	--	--	2	2	11
Ireland	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	3
Israel	--	--	--	8	(3/)	9	45
Italy	--	--	--	14	(3/)	14	87
Japan	--	--	--	2	2	4	107
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	10
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Mexico	(3/)	--	2	(3/)	2	4	28
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	8
Portugal	--	--	--	1	--	1	2
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Singapore	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	15
South Africa	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	15
Spain	--	--	--	--	1	1	7
Sweden	--	--	--	10	(3/)	10	74
Switzerland	--	--	--	2	(3/)	2	6
Taiwan	--	--	--	1	(3/)	1	34
United Kingdom	--	--	--	30	3	33	117
Venezuela	--	--	--	1	--	1	3
Vietnam	--	--	2	--	--	2	2
Total	(3/)	--	12	113	19	140	XX
Total, year to date	17	66	175	896	204	XX	1,360

e/ Tungsten content estimated in part. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium, potassium, and sodium tungstates, mixtures and materials in chief value tungsten, tungstic acid, unwrought ingots and shot, other unwrought tungsten and materials, wrought tungsten, and other tungsten compounds.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in August 1996 totaled 30 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: Bureau of the Census.